

Special Olympics, The Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial, The National Law Enforcement Memorial, The Missouri Police Chiefs Foundation and many others.

The law enforcement community is of paramount importance to our cities, our states and our Nation. This organization represents some of Missouri's finest members of the law enforcement community and is worthy of the esteem of this body. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the great work of The Missouri Officers Association on their 70th anniversary.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DEZIE WOODS-JONES, PERALTA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR EXTER-
NAL AFFAIRS, FORMER CITY
COUNCILWOMAN AND VICE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OAK-
LAND

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dezie Woods-Jones for her 40 extraordinary years of educational leadership and public service to the City of Oakland. She will retire on July 14, 2002 from her position as Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs for the Peralta Community College District, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in education and community activism.

Dezie Woods-Jones has served the community as a committed activist, working diligently on behalf of the underprivileged, the underserved, the disenfranchised, youth, and for women's rights.

Born in Ruston, Louisiana, and raised in Fresno and Oakland, California, Dezie Woods-Jones began her civic involvement as a high school student, serving as president of the Fresno Youth Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she also worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Black Conference Planning Committee (BCPC), and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Hayward.

In 1968, Dezie Woods-Jones accepted her first position with Peralta Community College District, as Director of the Community Outreach Center in North Oakland. Before being promoted to Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, she held a number of management positions in the District, including Director of Governmental Affairs, where she served as the District's lobbyist for almost eight years. She also served as an instructor, and she still considers herself first and foremost an educator and teacher.

In 1991, Dezie Woods-Jones was elected to the Oakland City Council, and she served as the city's Vice Mayor from 1996-1997. She was also the first woman to run for mayor of the city of Oakland. During her tenure on the council, she served as chair of the Council's Rules Committee, and as a member of the Finance and Legislation Committee and the Public Safety/Health and Human Services Committee.

A dedicated advocate for women's rights, Dezie Woods-Jones was a founding member of the pioneering organization Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), and has served as the organization's statewide president for over 30 years.

Dezie Woods-Jones was named one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's Enews in 2002, and she received a nomination as one of the "Bay Area's 10 Most Influential Leaders," in City Flight Magazine in 2001. She was also included in "Women of Courage," a book published by Nestle, Inc. that featured stories of 35 women from across the country. She is a frequent guest on Bay Area radio and television shows, and has been invited as a guest speaker in South Korea, West Africa, South America, and Mexico.

She has held membership in over 50 community, state, and national organizations, chaired over 20 commissions, committees and boards, received hundreds of awards and recognitions, and has been appointed to special task force projects by the governor of California and several Oakland mayors.

I am honored to congratulate Dezie Woods-Jones on all of her remarkable accomplishments. Her tireless dedication to education and her community have touched the lives of countless Oakland residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday June 17th, Tuesday June 18th, and Wednesday June 19th, I missed rollcall votes 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235 and 236 due to my previously scheduled surgery being conducted in Alabama. If I had been present I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes.

2ND LT. WILLIAM WOLBER, ONE OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities that abound for all Americans are the products of sacrifice on the part of so many. Often at far distant places in the world and under great stress.

There are literally tens of thousands of stories, so many of which involve what it is widely acknowledged to be "The Greatest Generation." One such story, that of Army Air Force Second Lieutenant William Wolber, is of heroic dimensions. It was relayed to me by a mutual friend and neighbor, Fred Carville of New Hartford, New York. Here it is, in the words of Mr. Carville:

Second Lieutenant William Wolber served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was a bombardier serving in the 8th Air Force, 466th Bomb Group, which flew the B-24 Liberators out of England.

On one mission into Germany there were 12 planes in the formation flying in three flights of four planes each. Wolber's plane

was flying in formation as plane three of the first flight. The standard procedure was for all planes of the mission to follow the lead plane of the first throughout the entire mission. Radio silence was of the utmost importance.

On this particular mission planes one and two of the first flight were downed by enemy flak. Plane three (the one Bill was in) then took on the role of "the lead plane" for the return flight to England. All remaining planes were now taking their lead from plane three. However, Bill's plane, number three of the first flight, (for some reason) did not have a navigator on board during this particular mission.

Second Lieutenant William Wolber, bombardier, assumed the role of navigator. He evaluated the situation, looked at the navigator's maps and equipment. Based on target information Wolber determined a heading for the return flight and passed the bearing he had calculated on to the pilots to follow.

According to Bill's recollection, it was a very overcast day and the entire return flight was over cloud cover. There were no visual observations to aid in determining the correct return flight path. Bill continued to estimate the progress of the flight using the maps, heading, air speed, etc. All of the remaining planes of the mission continued to follow the lead of his plane.

At one point Bill told the pilot "we should be over the field, drop down through the cloud cover." The pilot dropped down through the cloud cover and lo and behold there was the field as Wolber had calculated. All remaining planes of the mission landed without incident. Bill continued his role as bombardier and flew 32 missions.

I have thanked Carville for sharing that story with me. Because it says so much about the character and courage of a fellow American, I want to share it with you, my colleagues in the House of Representatives. But I want to add a postscript.

I, like Mr. Carville, have been a friend and neighbor of Bill Wolber for years and yet never learned of that eventful mission in enemy territory during a peak period in a great world war until just recently. I wasn't surprised. You see, Bill Wolber is one of the finest, most decent, patriotic citizens I have ever had the privilege of meeting and getting to know.

Bill Wolber is a quiet, unassuming guy who, I suspect, was always a giver, one who did things for others whenever the opportunity was there because it was "the right thing" to do. I'll bet deserved recognition never crossed his mind. I know he doesn't talk much about helping others, he just does it. And that is why he and his contemporaries like him have earned the accolade "The Greatest Generation."

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS CLAIMS PROMPT PAY- MENT ACT OF 2002

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's doctors and hospitals face funding challenges. Today, to help address these challenges, I introduced the Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002.

We have heard a lot about the need to stop the declining payments from Medicare, especially since the proportion of patients on Medicare continues to grow. Further, doctors and